

‘Trails of Freedom’

Maps retrace the Underground Railroad

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Jasmine Marshall, 12, wouldn't mind sometime soon going on a road trip — one that weaves not simply through Indiana countryside, but also black history.

For starters, "I've never done it before," Jasmine said. Also, she wants to learn about the history of freed slaves.

Jasmine was among 100 people who gathered at the Carnegie Center for Art and History in New Albany on Friday to celebrate the release of "Southeast Indiana Trails of Freedom."

The booklet shows maps for motorists to retrace three routes of the Underground Railroad, which enabled slaves to escape to freedom. Many slaves crossed the Ohio River from Louisville into New Albany on their way toward Canada. Also, the booklet tells of the Underground Railroad, and the people who were involved in it.

The 62-page booklet costs \$5.

Martha Brown, of Louisville, said she'd like to go on one of the Underground Railroad routes with her family because of the history.

"We just need to get history," Brown said.

The release was accompanied by storytelling from Judith Owens-Lalude, who told a story of a mother and child crossing from Kentucky to New Albany. Later, children including Jasmine read the remembrances of freed slaves.

The booklet compliments a permanent exhibit at the center covering the Underground Railroad in New Albany, director Sally Newkirk said. The center is one of three starting points for the driving trails, which encompass 17 Indiana counties.

The trails could teach children about more than just history, said Pam Peters, who wrote the 2001 book "The Underground Railroad in Floyd County, Indiana."

"It's an example to children today to stand up for what is right," Peters said.